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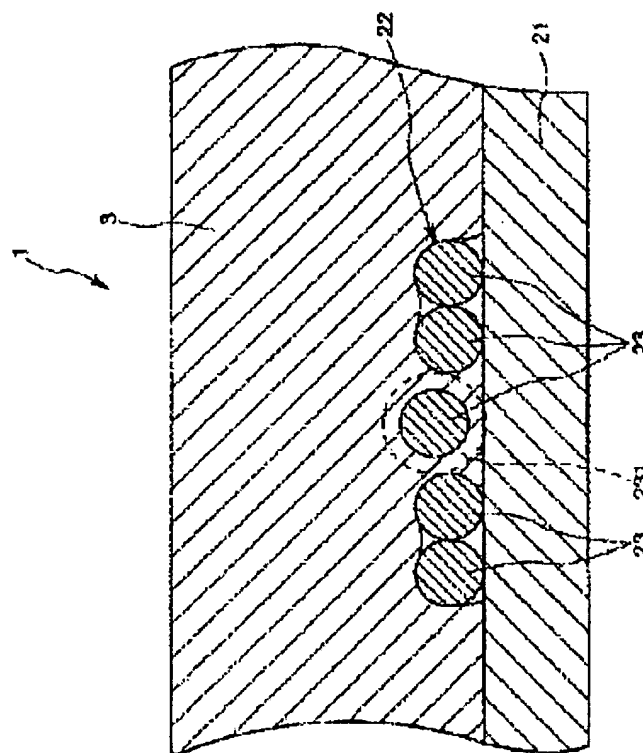
FLEXIBLE TUBE FOR ENDOSCOPE

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- **European:**
Application number: JP20010028515 20010205
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Abstract of JP2002224018

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a flexible tube for an endoscope excellent in resiliency and durability. **SOLUTION:** The inserting part flexible tube 1 has a spiral tube 21 formed by winding a belt-like material in a spiral shape, a net-like tube 22 formed by braiding fine wires 23, and the flexible outer cover 3. A covering layer 231 is formed at least in one of the fine wires 23. The covering layer 231 is mainly composed of a complex of urethane-based elastomer (an organic material) and silica (an inorganic material). In the complex, a composite domain is formed by joining the silica to a hard segment of the urethane-based elastomer. The complex has a structure of separating a soft segment of the urethane-based elastomer and the composite domain into two layers. The average thickness of the covering layer 231 is 1 to 100 μ m. In the outer cover 3, a part on the side for contacting with at least the covering layer 231 is composed of a material including urethane-based elastomer.



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